

# COALITION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Autism Society  
of Minnesota  
ausm.org  
(651) 647-1083

February 25, 2019

Chair Youakim and Members of the Education Policy Committee,

The PACER Center and the Coalition for Children with Disabilities appreciate the opportunity to share our views of the special education bills scheduled to be heard in the February, 25 2019 hearing:

Epilepsy Foundation  
of Minnesota  
efmn.org  
(651) 287-2300

## **H.F. 1277 - Transition Planning Eliminated From Starting in Grade 9**

We oppose this bill. Transition planning needs to start at grade 9 so students can plan to take appropriate coursework and make other necessary preparations for life after high school. Delaying transition planning until age 16 does not allow adequate time for students with disabilities to design and implement a successful transition plan and explore and prepare for possible career options.

Minnesota  
Brain Injury  
Alliance

braininjurymn.org  
(612) 378-2742

## **H.F. 854 - Conciliation Conference Eliminated**

We oppose this bill. Conciliation conferences are an important tool for families and school districts to come together to resolve disputes at the local level. Minnesota has very few due process hearings, which are very costly, because we are able to resolve issues using alternative dispute resolution processes, which includes conciliation conferences. We should not eliminate this cost-effective solution that delivers results for students with disabilities.

PACER Center, Inc.  
PACER.org  
(952) 838-9000

## **H.F. 1517 – Removal of Short-term Objectives Requirement**

We strongly oppose eliminating the requirement that all IEPs contain short-term objectives. We believe short-term objectives are necessary to monitoring progress and provide parents with very important information to help ensure their child is on track to achieve annual goals.

Prader-Willi  
Syndrome

Association of  
Minnesota  
pwsa-usa.org/MN  
(763) 242-9074

## **H.F. 1289 - Prior Written Notice Requirements Removed**

Prior Written Notices are an important form of communication to families about services for their children with disabilities. We appreciate the intent of the amendment to provide consistent information and want to continue to be involved in discussions regarding this bill.

Proof Alliance  
proofalliance.org  
(651) 917-2370

## **H.F. 1005 - Conciliation Conference Requirements Amended**

We look forward to working with the House and Senate authors to continue to improve the bill language. We want to ensure conciliation conferences are continued to be offered to parents while allowing flexibility for IEP teams when appropriate.

The Arc Minnesota  
arcmm.org  
(952) 920-0855

## **H.F. 853 - Functional Behavior Assessments Allowed Under Certain Circumstances**

We support this bill but want to ensure that parents retain the right to request a complete reevaluation of their child when they think it is necessary.

## **H.F. 1390 - IEP Requirements Modified to Permit Student Assessment Performance Reporting**

We have no opposition to the bill in its current form. In cases when Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams feel that state and district test results provide information valuable to the implementation of the IEP, the team can choose to include those results in the IEP.

## **H. F. 1560 – Paraprofessional Training Funding and Short-Term Objectives Modification**

We support the provisions of this bill that provide funding for paraprofessionals to receive training and coordination that will help them more effectively work with students with disabilities. We are opposed to the modifications to short-term objective requirements.

Thank you for considering our positions on legislation that impacts students with disabilities. We look forward to working with you to improve outcomes for all of our children. Please reach out to Sarah Clarke if you have any questions or need additional information at (952) 201-4654 or [sclarke@hyldenlaw.com](mailto:sclarke@hyldenlaw.com).